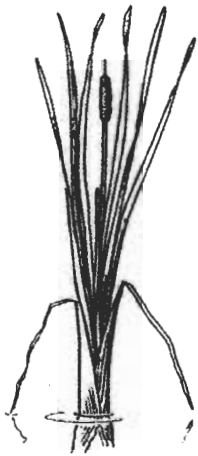


More Than Meets the Eye



“Hi! I’m a cattail on the Saugus Iron Works wetland. I live here in a community with hundreds of plants and animals. We all help make this wetland an incredible area. We each have a job and work together. Let me tell you all the really neat things wetlands do! I think you will be very surprised, and maybe you will never look at a wetland the same way again!”

“Below draw a line to match the description of the job a wetland does to an object that is familiar to you. Have fun!”

We live on the Saugus River, a river fed by many smaller rivers, or tributaries. Heavy rains make the river swell. We **soak up** and hold much of the extra water and release it, slowly, back into the river to prevent flooding.

Many homes, companies, and factories line the river. Sometimes pollutants that could harm plants and animals get into the water. Our soils **filter** and decompose many of the pollutants, naturally cleaning the river.

If you sit and listen quietly, you will hear the sounds of birds, ducks, and geese, possibly see butterflies, and dragonflies. You might even feel the pinch of a mosquito. Hundreds of insects, animals, and plants **live here**.

Our soils are very special. They are so full of water that there is no room for air. Without air, objects that were buried a long time ago, like the Iron Work’s furnace waterwheel, can’t decompose. For almost 300 years, our soils kept artifacts **safe** so they could be discovered and learned from.

